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upon clay-wares. For example: improved lighting has developed the electrical porcelain industry, the demand for better paving has given rise to the paving brick industry, the steel frame construction has necessitated the making of fireproofing and architectural terracotta, and so on.

A brief survey of statistics shows very interestingly how the industry has been growing. During the period 1880 to 1905 the number of manufacturing firms decreased by approximately 1000, the capitalization increased from over \$35,000,000 to nearly \$231,000,000, and the annual value of the products from approximately \$42,000,000 to over \$135,000,000. Such a growth has unquestionably been accompanied by important changes. These data apparently show better industrial organization, improvement in the methods of manufacture, higher degree of skill, greater efficiency, larger variety and improved quality of wares. Further evidence of the importance of the change is to be found in the existence of a vigorous society devoted to the technology of the industry, and in the fact that in four institutions of college and university rank special courses are provided for those who are preparing to enter the industry as chemists or engineers. Thus one of the oldest if not the oldest of industries has been passing through a transitional stage. Dr. Ries and Mr. Leighton have told us in a very orderly and interesting manner about the beginnings in this country of an ancient industry which is finding itself.

The subject is treated in two parts: first, a résumé of the history of the industry by products each discussed separately: and second, a history of the industry in each state. No attempt has been made to give the history of every clay-working factory.

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Cyclopedia of American Agriculture. A popular survey of Agricultural conditions, practices and ideals in the United States. Edited by LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY. In four volumes. Volume iv: Farm and Community. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1909. xiv, 650. \$5 net.)

Two-thirds of the American people live on the farm, or at least in rural communities. Over one-third derive their livelihood

directly from agricultural labor. The other two-thirds are intimately concerned in the agricultural conditions of this country as consumers. Finally, in the world's markets for agricultural products the American farm probably represents the most important single factor. It is therefore a peculiarly strong evidence of the onesidedness of our economic science that we are only beginning to awaken to the importance of the study of these tremendous interests. The large volume, whose long title we have quoted above, is perhaps the first comprehensive study of agricultural problems in this country. It is somewhat humiliating (or at least it ought to be) to the pride of the American economist that this important work was not conceived by professional economists, but by specialists in agricultural science, and was executed not as a part of an economic treatise or system, but of an agricultural encyclopedia.

Encyclopedias are peculiarly discouraging to the reviewer. Each volume contains a vast variety of topics, with all of which no man can be familiar enough to pass expert criticism. One cannot get at the central idea of an encyclopedia by reading its final chapter, and it is impossible to attack its fundamental conclusions. In the following lines the plan and the scope of the volume rather than the actual contents of the many individual contributions will be considered.

In its arrangement of material the *Cyclopedia of American Agriculture* differs somewhat from the traditional encyclopedia, by presenting it in logical sequence rather than alphabetically under separate topics and words. This arrangement is more advantageous to the reader, but probably less favorable to the editor, in that it makes the discovery of weak spots very much easier.

The fourth volume is divided into ten chapters: (1) The agricultural wealth of North America (22 pages), (2) The historical evolution of North American agriculture (65 pages), (3) Phases of the agricultural shift (38 pages), (4) The natural resources of agriculture (45 pages), (5) Land and labor (44 pages), (6) Business organization in agriculture (62 pages), (7) Social and service association (78 pages), (8) Education by means of agriculture (123 pages), (9) Governmental and legal aid and control (69 pages), and (10) Biographies (82 pages). For bringing so many topics

within the covers of one convenient volume the editor has earned the deepest appreciation of every American student of economic conditions.

Even the brief outline, as quoted above, shows that it is somewhat inaccurate to speak of the work as a treatise on agricultural economics, especially if the comparative space allotted to the various chapters be taken into consideration. Thus the sociological undertone, manifested in the subtitle of the volume, *Farm and Community*, is amply justified by the table of contents. This impression is strengthened by a closer examination of the numerous articles constituting the volume. There are over 70 of them besides the longest chapter of 122 pages devoted to agricultural education, and contributed mainly by the Editor. The list of articles is no less imposing than the list of the authors. In the latter are comprised many names familiar to every American economist, and it is a pleasant surprise to find how many of our college professors have recently (very recently) become interested in agricultural problems. Other authoritative contributors are teachers of agricultural science, and workers in various scientific lines in the United States Department of Agriculture, where the importance of the economic aspects of the problems studied is never permitted to be obscured by the purely technical (often euphemistically called "scientific") aspects.

But while the volume under consideration touches upon matters historic, sociological, educational, and even geographical, in addition to economics, an economic student may be forgiven for looking upon the volume primarily as a contribution to economic literature and judging it as such. For after all, the so-called sociological, educational, and other problems of the American farm are discussed by the people at large from the economic angle of vision. From this point of view the volume is perhaps not so satisfactory as one might wish it to be. This the Editor admits so readily as to disarm all unfavorable criticism. "The present volume," he says, "is only fragmentary. A full outline of the subject was prepared. When persons could be secured to handle the subjects, the parts were included; if good authorities were not readily found, the subjects were omitted rather than to be written up or compiled from other sources. That is to say, such material as the editor has been able to collect, he has put together, without any special

attempt to round up or to complete the field." Whether this is exactly the best guiding principle in the preparation of an encyclopedia, remains somewhat uncertain. But in any case, the responsibility has been shifted upon the shoulders of the economists and sociologists, and perhaps not altogether unjustly.

We therefore have no one to blame but ourselves when we find that 122 pages are devoted to agricultural colleges in America and only 44 pages to the discussion of Land and Labor, or 15 pages given to the description of the aboriginal agriculture of the American Indians as against 2 pages devoted to the negro farmers. It may not be altogether accurate to claim that the volume represents fully our state of knowledge concerning American agriculture, and one may mention many topics which could have been treated fairly satisfactorily; but with all that, if the contemplation of that table of contents will help the American economist towards an appreciation of the vast and virgin field left for his effort, the volume will have amply justified itself.

The economic studies in a narrower sense are brought together in chapters I, V, and VI. The arrangement is not ideal. It is not altogether clear why the chapter on Natural Resources of Agriculture consists mainly of the study of forest resources and irrigation policies, while the first chapter, entitled *The Agricultural Wealth of North America*, should contain a rather commonplace discussion of imports and exports, with an exaggerated emphasis placed upon values. In the comprehensive discussion of the census statistics of agriculture, undue emphasis seems to be placed upon the very hazy and unsatisfactory concept of capital invested in agriculture and manufactures. All such comparisons on a very large scale are very likely to be taken too seriously, and be given undue significance. Especially is this true of the particular comparison in question, in view of the admitted unreliability of the data concerning capital invested in manufactures, while what is called capital invested in agriculture includes a very liberal valuation of all farm lands.

If, as has often been asserted, the problem of distribution is the central problem of the science of economics, then the chapters V and VI, contributed almost entirely by economists, will appear to be least satisfactory of all. To begin with, we find a much longer chapter devoted to Business Organization in Agriculture than to

the all important problem of Land and Labor. This, however, is in harmony with the new tendency which unfortunately is rapidly growing in this country, to consider economics a science of business rather than of society, and to relegate every economic problem in which business does not take any great interest to the domain of sociology.

But even from the commercial point of view, such omissions as the absence of any study of prices of agricultural products (except for a brief and superficial three column article on speculation and farm prices) are very much to be regretted. In the chapter on Land and Labor one finds a great deal more theory concerning the "marginal farmer" and "differential profits," than actual information concerning the real live American farmer, white, black, or yellow, American, Scandinavian, Italian, Jewish, or Japanese, and his actual standard of life. Personally, the writer of these lines would forego the 14 columns on the Historic Farm Animals (illustrated) for the sake of some of the topics indicated.

Perhaps the most serious criticism that may be made concerning the encyclopedia, is the disregard of bibliographical notes by many if not most of the authors. In this respect the American Encyclopedias have a great deal to learn from the Germans. In the volume under discussion the subject of bibliography has received very uneven treatment. Some authors have given brief lists of authorities consulted, others have kept their articles clean of all references; and one is somewhat pained to find some of the teachers of economics in our best colleges among the worst sinners. The encyclopedia aims to be a popular survey; nevertheless it is the most ambitious work on agricultural economics that has as yet been published in this country, and, we suspect, will be read a great deal more by economists than by actual farmers. It will lose a substantial part of its usefulness if it fails to help the readers toward a fuller and more detailed study of the problems by proper references to available literature.

But the significance of all these strictures must not be exaggerated, nor their motive misinterpreted. A reviewer never feels that he has quite done his duty unless he has succeeded in working himself up to a fault finding mood. If the volume is to be judged by what it contains, rather than by what it has failed to

include, it will remain one of the most useful publications issued within recent years.

Altogether, the volume will come as a revelation to many of our teachers and students, especially in the eastern colleges, so deeply engrossed in problems of banking, accounting, and finance, that they are scarcely conscious of the existence of these difficult problems of agricultural economics. The history and the present problems of American agriculture are worthy of the very best mental effort that the American economist is capable of. The *Cyclopedia of American Agriculture* bears satisfactory evidence to the fact that the beginning has been made—but as yet it is only the beginning.

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Report of the Commissioner of Corporations on Transportation by Water in the United States. Part I: General Conditions of Transportation by Water. Part II: Water-borne Traffic. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1909. Pp. xviii, 614; xxiv, 402.)

All students of the transportation problem are under great obligation to the Bureau of Corporations for the exhaustive report on waterways which is now appearing. While much information is scattered through different government publications, yet the material there collected, even in the judgment of those who have had the investigations in charge, is incomplete and unsatisfactory. In fact, these reports under review, if looked at purely from the statistical standpoint, are disappointing, simply because statistical information is in many cases, wholly unavailable; but from every other point of view, they throw a flood of light upon the present condition of water transportation in this country.

Part I deals with the physical character of coastwise and inland waterways, with the types of vessels employed, with the forms of business organization, and with certain legal and financial aspects of water carriage such as shipping contracts, marine insurance and taxation. It contains valuable appendices of laws, regulations, and shipping and insurance forms.

Part II discusses traffic conditions with abundance of statistical illustration.